

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

In addition to the changes made by the Examiner's Amendment in the Notice of Allowance, please add claims 30 to 35:

Claims 1 to 22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented) A parabolic trough collector comprising:

an absorber tube (13) through which a heat transfer fluid is able to flow;

a parabolic reflector (11) that focuses solar radiation onto the absorber tube;

cladding tubes (15) enclosing the absorber tube (13) so that the absorber tube (13) extends through the cladding tubes (15);

compensation pieces (17) for compensating differing length changes of the absorber tube and the cladding tubes due to thermal expansion, said compensation pieces (17) connecting the cladding tubes (15) to the absorber tube (13) so that connection areas (50) are formed between the cladding tubes; and

mirror collars (20) arranged around the cladding tubes in the connection areas to partially or fully cover said compensation pieces (17) to provide at least partial protection of the compensation pieces (17) from the solar radiation;

wherein the mirror collars (20) each have at least one reflective metal surface facing away from the cladding tubes (15) and said at least one reflective metal surface reflects a part of the solar radiation directed toward the cladding tubes (15) so that said part of the solar radiation passes through the cladding

tubes (15) to the absorber tube (13); and

wherein said at least one reflective metal surface consists of at least one planar surface (30).

24. (previously presented) The parabolic trough collector as defined in claim 23, wherein said at least one planar surface (30) consists of a single annular surface (31) that is oriented perpendicularly to the axis of the cladding tube (15) and is planar.

25. (previously presented) The parabolic trough collector as defined in claim 23, wherein said at least one reflective metal surface consists of a plurality of planar surfaces (30) circumferentially disposed around the cladding tube (15).

26. (previously presented) The parabolic trough collector as defined in claim 25, wherein each of said mirror collars (20) has from two to eight of said planar surfaces (30).

27. (previously presented) The parabolic trough collector as defined in claim 23, wherein each of said mirror collars (20) has a height (h) perpendicular to the axis of the cladding tubes (15), each of the connection areas have a length (L), and a ratio (h/L) of said height to said length is between 0.3 and 1.

28. (previously presented) The parabolic trough collector as defined in claim 23,

wherein the parabolic reflector (11) tracks the sun via a single axis.

29. (previously presented) The parabolic trough collector as defined in claim 23, wherein each of said mirror collars (20) is composed of aluminum.

30. (new) A solar collector comprising:

- an absorber tube (13) through which a heat-transfer medium is able to flow;

- a concentrator that focuses solar radiation onto the absorber tube;

- at least one radiation-permeable cladding tube (15) enclosing the absorber tube (13);

- compensation pieces (17) for length compensation provided at respective ends of the at least one cladding tube (15) in connection areas (50); and

- at least one mirror collar (20) arranged around the cladding tubes in the connection areas to partially or fully cover said compensation pieces (17) to provide at least partial protection of the compensation pieces (17) from the solar radiation;

- wherein each of said at least one mirror collar (20) have at least one reflective metal surface facing away from the cladding tubes (15) and said at least one reflective metal surface reflects a part of the solar radiation directed toward the cladding tubes (15) so that said part of the solar radiation passes through the cladding tubes (15) to the absorber tube (13); and

- wherein said at least one reflective metal surface consists of at least one

planar surface (30).

31. (new) The solar collector as defined in claim 30, wherein said at least one planar surface (30) consists of a single annular surface (31) that is oriented perpendicularly to the axis of the cladding tube (15) and is planar.

32. (new) The solar collector as defined in claim 30, wherein said at least one reflective metal surface consists of a plurality of planar surfaces (30) circumferentially disposed around the cladding tube (15).

33. (new) The solar collector as defined in claim 32, wherein each of said at least one mirror collar (20) has from two to eight of said planar surfaces (30).

34. (new) The solar collector as defined in claim 30, wherein each of said at least one mirror collar (20) has a height (h) perpendicular to the axis of the cladding tube (15), each of the connection areas have a length (L), and a ratio (h/L) of said height to said length is between 0.3 and 1.

35. (new) The solar collector as defined in claim 30, wherein each of said at least one mirror collar (20) is composed of aluminum.